

West Africa. The highest point in Liberia was about 4,000 feet, but due to the activities of the Liberian American Swedish Minerals Co. (Lamco J.V. Op. Co.) which is exploiting the very rich deposits of iron ore there, this height is being rapidly reduced. The I.U.C.N. became aware of the situation and the Mt. Nimba Committee (Chairman Dr. Kai Curry-Lindahl) was set up to make investigations and to negotiate for funds to make a thorough survey of the natural history before it was too late. In this they were successful and Lamco has sponsored a research programme. I was asked by the Committee to conduct the ornithological part.

Elsewhere (*U.N.E.S.C.O. Regional Bulletin [Africa]* 2, 1967: 31-34) I have reported briefly on my first visit from June—September, 1967. I then spent the whole of 1968 at Mt. Nimba and am working on my collection of skins at the British Museum (Natural History) where the bulk will be deposited. My main report will appear later, but meanwhile taxonomic notes (with descriptions of new forms) and short papers on other matters of interest will be published. Results have been very encouraging—over 100 species have been added to the list of Liberian avifauna and some of these are considerable extensions of range. Many species long considered to be extremely rare were found to be tolerably common. Mt. Nimba itself has no endemic bird, so the destruction of the mountain will affect no species directly, but the results of man's activities there in relation to the ecology of the area are incalculable.

The type specimen of *Bubo capensis dillonii* Des Murs and Prévost

by C. W. Benson and M. P. Stuart Irwin

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As reported by us (1967: 13), the type of this subspecies is in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, and Professor J. Berlioz kindly gave us some information about it which we duly used. In view of its short wing-length, we expressed the opinion that it might in reality be attributable to the species *Bubo africanus* (Temminck) not to *B. capensis* Smith.

In November 1967 we visited the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle and thanks to Professor J. Dorst and Dr. F. Roux were able to examine this specimen. We made the wing-length to be 359 mm., but owing to its abraded condition the tail could not be accurately measured. The coloration was typical of *Bubo capensis*, not *africanus*, and according to our measurements of other specimens of *B. c. dillonii* (Benson and Irwin, 1967: 13) it would appear that the specimen is a male.

Thus we can confirm that *dillonii* is correctly placed with *Bubo capensis*, not *africanus*.

Reference:

Benson, C. W., and Irwin, M. P. Stuart, 1967. The distribution and systematics of *Bubo capensis* Smith (Aves). *Arnoldia* (Rhodesia), 3 (19).

Ardeola idae Hartlaub in Rhodesia

by Michael P. Stuart Irwin

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Though the Malagasy Squacco Heron *Ardeola idae* Hartlaub occurs in the non-breeding season over a wide area in East Africa and the Congo Basin to Zambia, it has not previously been recorded south of the Zambesi River,